



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***LYCOPodium SITCHENSE*** **ALASKAN CLUBMOSS**

Alaskan Clubmoss is a low evergreen perennial with clustered, branching, upright shoots growing from slender, above ground or slightly buried, rooting, horizontal stems. Branches are circular in cross-section, most are short at 3-10 cm, vegetative, and bear leaves in longitudinal rows of five. The thick, firm, incurved, sharp pointed green leaves are 3-6 mm long and less than 1 mm wide. Fewer, taller reproductive branches, up to 17.5 cm tall, have similar but less crowded leaves, often in ranks of six, and bear one or more terminal club-like cones where spores are produced. The cones, about 1-4 cm long, are composed of tightly packed straw colored or slightly greenish sporophylls, ca. 2-3 mm long and 1.5-3 mm wide, with kidney-shaped sporangia attached within at their bases. Producing spores in late June or July.

Distinguished from all other related species and genera in our area by the combination of branches circular in cross section, and with leaves of vegetative branches all alike in five rows. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.